



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 560

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 847

Senate, April 18, 2013

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION FOR TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4d-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) There is established a Commission for [Educational] Technology
4 Advancement within the Department of Administrative Services. The
5 commission shall consist of the following members or their designees:
6 (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the
7 Commissioner of Administrative Services, [or the commissioner's
8 designee,] the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of
9 Economic and Community Development, the president of The
10 University of Connecticut and the president of the Board of Regents
11 for Higher Education, [or their designees,] the State Librarian [, or the
12 State Librarian's designee, the chairperson of the Public Utilities
13 Regulatory Authority, or the chairperson's designee, the chief

14 executive officers of the constituent units of the state system of higher
15 education, or their designees] and the Consumer Counsel, (2) one
16 member each representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent
17 Colleges, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the
18 [Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the
19 Connecticut Educators Computer Association,] Connecticut
20 Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns
21 and the Connecticut Library Association, and (3) [a secondary school
22 teacher designated by the Connecticut Education Association and an
23 elementary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Federation of
24 Educational and Professional Employees, and (4)] four members who
25 represent business [and] or have expertise in information technology,
26 [one each] two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, [the
27 Lieutenant Governor,] one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker
28 of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be appointed
29 by the president pro tempore of the Senate. [The Lieutenant Governor
30 shall convene the first meeting of the commission on or before
31 September 1, 2000.] The commission shall convene a meeting at least
32 once during each calendar quarter.

33 (b) The [commission shall elect] Governor shall appoint a
34 chairperson from among [its] the members of the commission or their
35 designees. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available
36 appropriations, the commission may appoint an executive director and
37 such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the
38 duties of the commission. Notwithstanding any provision of the
39 general statutes, the executive director shall have the option to elect
40 participation in the state employees retirement system, or the alternate
41 retirement program established for eligible employees in higher
42 education or the teachers' retirement system.

43 (c) The commission shall:

44 [(1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state
45 government;]

46 [(2)] (1) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide

47 technology advancement goals including:

48 (A) Increasing the availability and usage of technology that
49 promotes efficiency in operation and increased digital literacy across
50 the state;

51 (B) Increasing and improving usage of high-speed, cost effective
52 network technology to meet collaboration demands of state and local
53 government, institutions of education and other related entities;

54 ~~[(A)]~~ (C) Connecting [all] institutions of higher education, libraries,
55 public elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service
56 centers, municipal facilities and other parties through a state-wide
57 high speed, flexible network that will allow for video, voice and data
58 transmission at rates set no higher than necessary to cover the costs of
59 maintaining and operating the network;

60 ~~[(B)]~~ (D) Wiring [all] school classrooms and connecting them to the
61 Internet and to the state-wide high speed network through wired,
62 wireless, or any other digital transmission technology providing high
63 speed connectivity;

64 ~~[(C)]~~ (E) Providing access for [all] public schools, public libraries
65 and libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line
66 full text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for
67 other collections in order to maximize buying power;

68 [(D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,
69 competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;]

70 [(E)] (F) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the
71 integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school
72 teachers; and

73 [(F)] (G) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide
74 range of course and degree programs via the Internet and through
75 other synchronous and asynchronous methods;

76 [(3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational
77 institutions and other parties involved in the creation and
78 management of a reliable and secure network that will offer
79 connectivity and allow for the transmission of video, voice and data
80 transmission to every library, school, regional educational service
81 center and institution of higher education;]

82 [(4)] (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General
83 Assembly and local, state and federal organizations and entities with
84 respect to [educational] technology adoption and access matters;

85 [(5)] (3) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related
86 recommendations for the coordination of [educational] technology
87 advancement. The plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for
88 [using telecommunications and information] technology to improve
89 education, research and access, (B) [include a professional
90 development strategy to ensure that teachers and faculty know how to
91 use the new technologies to improve education] improve digital
92 literacy and awareness, (C) include an assessment of the
93 telecommunications, hardware, software and other services that will
94 be needed to improve education, and (D) include an evaluation
95 process that monitors progress towards the specified goals;

96 [(6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites
97 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained
98 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions
99 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other
100 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in
101 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all
102 potential users;

103 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
104 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,
105 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials
106 in educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory
107 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular
108 discipline significant to the work of the commission;]

109 [(8)] (4) On or before January 1, [2001] 2015, and [annually] every
110 two years thereafter, [the commission shall] report, in accordance with
111 section 11-4a, on its activities, progress made in the attainment of the
112 state-wide technology advancement goals as outlined in the long-
113 range plan and any recommendations to the joint standing [committee]
114 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
115 relating to education, commerce, higher education and appropriations
116 and the budgets of state agencies; [, the State Board of Education, and
117 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The report shall include
118 recommendations for adjustments to the funding formula for grants
119 pursuant to section 10-262n if there are school districts that are at a
120 disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and the use of
121 technology in their schools;]

122 [(9)] (5) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
123 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
124 provisions of this section; and

125 [(10)] (6) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions
126 of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a process for
127 rate-setting and selection of parties to be connected pursuant to
128 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

129 (d) The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement
130 may request any office, department, board, commission or other
131 agency of the state to supply such reports, information and assistance
132 as may be necessary or appropriate in order to carry out its duties and
133 requirements.

134 [(e) For purposes of this section, educational technology shall
135 include, but not be limited to: (1) Computer-assisted instruction; (2)
136 information retrieval and data transfer; (3) telecommunications related
137 to voice, data and video transmission of instruction related materials
138 and courses; (4) the development and acquisition of educational
139 software; and (5) the instructional uses of the Internet and other
140 technologies.]

141 Sec. 2. Section 4d-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

143 There is established [an educational] a technology advancement
144 account. The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement
145 shall deposit in said account any private donation, bequest or devise
146 made to it to assist in the attainment of the state-wide technology
147 advancement goals established pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of
148 subsection (c) of section 4d-80, as amended by this act. Said account is
149 intended to be in addition to those resources that are appropriated by
150 the state for technology purposes. The commission shall use the
151 resources of the account for activities related to the attainment of such
152 goals.

153 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4d-82 of the general statutes is
154 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
155 *1, 2013*):

156 (a) The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement
157 shall develop, with the advice and assistance of the State Board of
158 Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the
159 Department of Administrative Services, a five-year plan for the
160 implementation of the Connecticut Education Network to provide
161 state-of-the-art, high-speed, reliable Internet access and video, voice
162 and data transmissions that electronically link all educational
163 institutions in the state, including public and independent institutions
164 of higher education, the state's libraries and all elementary, middle and
165 secondary schools and other institutions including businesses, job
166 centers and community organizations. The plan shall include the
167 establishment of a Connecticut Digital Library as a component of the
168 Connecticut Education Network to ensure on-line access by all
169 students and citizens to essential library and information resources.
170 The State Library, in conjunction with the Board of Regents for Higher
171 Education, shall administer the Connecticut Digital Library. The
172 Connecticut Digital Library shall provide access to available on-line
173 electronic full-text databases, a state-wide electronic catalog and

174 interlibrary loan system and the electronic and physical delivery of
175 library resources. The Connecticut Digital Library shall include
176 elements specifically designed to meet the educational and research
177 needs of the general public, higher education students and faculty and
178 elementary and secondary school students and teachers.

179 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-4h of the general statutes is
180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
181 *1, 2013*):

182 (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with the
183 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement, shall
184 establish a competitive grant program, within the limit of the bond
185 authorization for purposes of this section, to assist (1) local and
186 regional school districts, (2) regional educational service centers, (3)
187 cooperative arrangements among one or more boards of education,
188 and (4) endowed academies approved pursuant to section 10-34 that
189 are eligible for school building project grants pursuant to chapter 173,
190 to upgrade or install wiring, including electrical wiring, cable or other
191 distribution systems and infrastructure improvements to support
192 telecommunications and other information transmission equipment to
193 be used for educational purposes, provided the department may
194 expend up to two per cent of such bond authorization for such
195 purposes for the technical high school system.

196 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-262n of the general statutes is
197 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
198 *1, 2013*):

199 (b) Local and regional boards of education shall apply to the
200 department for grants at such time and in such manner as the
201 Commissioner of Education prescribes. In order to be eligible for a
202 grant, a local or regional board of education shall: (1) Have a
203 technology plan that was developed or updated during the three-year
204 period preceding the date of application for grant funds and, once the
205 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement develops the
206 long-range plan required pursuant to subdivision [(5)] (3) of subsection

207 (c) of section 4d-80, as amended by this act, the local technology plan
208 shall be consistent with such long-range plan, (2) provide that each
209 school and superintendent's office be able to communicate with the
210 Department of Education using the Internet, (3) present evidence that
211 it has applied or will apply for a grant from the federal Universal
212 Service Fund, and (4) submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds
213 in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

214 Sec. 6. Section 10-262o of the general statutes is repealed and the
215 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

216 The Department of Education shall establish, within available
217 appropriations, a competitive grant program to fund innovative
218 teacher training programs on the integration of technology into the
219 public school curriculum in order to improve student learning. [On
220 and after July 1, 2001, such training programs shall be consistent with
221 the standards developed pursuant to section 4d-85.]

222 Sec. 7. Section 10a-143b of the general statutes is repealed and the
223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

224 The Board for State Academic Awards shall establish, within
225 available appropriations, innovative on-line teacher and higher
226 education faculty training programs on the integration of technology
227 into the public school curriculum and courses at public institutions of
228 higher education in order to improve student learning. [On and after
229 July 1, 2001, the training program established for public school
230 teachers shall be consistent with the standards developed pursuant to
231 section 4d-85.]

232 Sec. 8. Section 11-2b of the general statutes is repealed and the
233 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

234 The State Library, in consultation with the Commission for
235 [Educational] Technology Advancement, within available
236 appropriations, shall contract, through a request for proposal process,
237 for the development of a Connecticut Parent Technology Academy.

238 The academy shall be host network for the development of increased
239 opportunities for parents of elementary, middle and secondary school
240 students to learn about and demonstrate their knowledge of
241 information technologies. The academy shall: (1) Identify existing
242 programs and best practices for the delivery of information technology
243 training for parents, (2) coordinate the development of curriculum
244 models to be used to train parents in the use of information
245 technologies, and (3) seek business, philanthropic, community and
246 educational partners to expand training locations and learning options
247 for parents. The Commission for [Educational] Technology
248 Advancement shall work in collaboration with the academy to
249 negotiate vendor discounts for computer purchases and upgrades and
250 low interest bank loans for such purchases for parents who
251 successfully complete an information technology training program.

252 Sec. 9. Subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of section 16-331 of the
253 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
254 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

255 (5) The authority shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
256 chapter 54, establishing procedures and standards for the renewal of
257 certificates issued to community antenna television companies. Such
258 regulations shall, without limitation, (A) incorporate the provisions of
259 the Communications Act of 1934, 47 USC 546, (B) require the authority
260 to consult with the advisory council for the franchise area served by
261 the certificate holder before making a decision concerning the renewal
262 of the certificate, (C) require any holder of a certificate which is not
263 renewed by the authority to continue to operate the franchise for one
264 year after the end of its term or until a successor is chosen and ready to
265 assume control of the franchise, whichever is sooner, (D) establish
266 standards for the content of notices sent to cable subscribers
267 concerning public hearings for franchise renewal proceedings which
268 standards shall include, without limitation, the requirements specified
269 in subdivision (6) of this subsection, (E) establish standards to ensure
270 that the costs and expenses of a municipality constructing, purchasing
271 or operating a community antenna television company are accurately

272 attributed to such company, and (F) establish quality standards for the
273 instructional and educational channels. The authority shall adopt
274 regulations pursuant to this subdivision in conjunction with the
275 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement.

276 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 16-333h of the general statutes is
277 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
278 *1, 2013*):

279 (a) Each community antenna television company, as defined in
280 section 16-1, shall, not later than the date it extends energized trunk
281 and feeder to all areas within its franchise territory in which there are
282 at least twenty-five prospective subscribers per aerial plant mile of
283 extension and fifty prospective subscribers per underground plant
284 mile of extension, extend such trunk and feeder to public and private
285 elementary and secondary schools in such franchise areas and offer
286 one instructional television channel as part of its basic service. Each
287 such company may utilize such instructional television channel for
288 noninstructional television programming during any time when the
289 channel is not needed for instructional programming. No such
290 company shall be required to offer the instructional television channel
291 on or after July 1, 1995, unless the Commission for [Educational]
292 Technology Advancement certifies to the Public Utilities Regulatory
293 Authority that educational agencies in the company's franchise area
294 have utilized the instructional television channel to provide, during
295 the school year, an average of not less than twenty hours per week of
296 credit and noncredit instructional programming, programming
297 supporting school curricula and programming for professional
298 development.

299 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 4d-1a of the general statutes is
300 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
301 *1, 2013*):

302 (a) (1) Wherever the term "Chief Information Officer of the
303 Department of Information Technology" is used in the following
304 general statutes, the term "Commissioner of Administrative Services"

305 shall be substituted in lieu thereof; (2) wherever the term "Chief
 306 Information Officer" is used in the following general statutes, the term
 307 "commissioner" shall be substituted in lieu thereof; and (3) wherever
 308 the term "Department of Information Technology" is used in the
 309 following general statutes, the term "Department of Administrative
 310 Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 1-205, 1-211, 1-212, 1-283,
 311 3-117, 4d-3, 4d-5, 4d-10, 4d-11, 4d-14, 4d-38, 4d-41, 4d-42, 4d-43, 4d-
 312 81a, 4d-82a, 4d-83, [4d-84,] 10-5b, 10-10a, 18-81x, 19a-110, 19a-750, 32-
 313 6i, 54-105a, 54-142q, 54-142r and 54-142s.

314 Sec. 12. Sections 4d-84 and 4d-85 of the general statutes are
 315 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2013*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-80
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-81
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-82(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-4h(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-262n(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-262o
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10a-143b
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	11-2b
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	16-331(d)(5)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	16-333h(a)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-1a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	Repealer section

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill which renames the Commission for Educational Technology the Commission for Technology Advancement and makes various changes to its membership, charge and goals. These changes have no fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 847*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION FOR TECHNOLOGY
ADVANCEMENT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill renames the Commission for Educational Technology the Commission for Technology Advancement, changes its membership, and revises the commission's charge and goals by requiring it to be the state's principal technology advancement entity, rather than educational technology policy advisor.

The bill also repeals laws requiring the commission to work with (1) the administrative services department to develop technology standards for school construction projects and the educational technology grant program and (2) the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop, and biennially update, a state-wide standard and plan for teacher and administrator competency in the use of instructional technology.

Lastly, the bill makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

MEMBERSHIP

The bill maintains the commission's size (17 members), but changes its membership by replacing five current members with five new members. The bill removes from the current commission:

1. the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority chairperson,
2. a representative of the Connecticut Educators Computer Association,
3. a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School

Superintendents,

4. a secondary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Education Association, and
5. an elementary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees.

The bill adds to the commission:

1. the Office of Policy and Management secretary,
2. the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner,
3. the Consumer Counsel,
4. a representative from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, and
5. a representative from the Connecticut Council of Small Towns.

The bill changes the qualifications of four members. Under current law, four members must represent businesses and have expertise in information technology. Under the bill, they must either represent businesses or have information technology expertise. The bill increases, from one to two, the number of these representatives appointed by the governor and eliminates the lieutenant governor's appointee.

The bill allows designees of all members to serve in their place. It also requires the governor to appoint the chairperson, rather than the commission electing the chairperson, as under current law.

The newly constituted commission must meet at least once each quarter.

DUTIES

The bill revises the commission's charge and goals by requiring it to

develop, oversee, and direct state-wide technology advancement goals. In doing so, it must increase the availability and use of technology that promotes efficiency; digital literacy; and collaboration between state and local governments, “institutions of education”, and other related entities. The bill does not define “institutions of education.” The bill also adds municipal facilities to the list of entities to be connected to the state’s high speed network.

The bill requires the commission to establish a process for (1) rate setting and (2) determining which colleges, universities, libraries, public schools, regional educational services centers, and municipal facilities will be connected to the network, as the commission is no longer required to connect every eligible entity. Network service rates may be set no higher than necessary to cover network maintenance and operating costs.

The commission must develop a plan for improving digital literacy and awareness, as well as improving research and access, not just education, through technology.

The bill also:

1. requires, starting in 2015, the commission to report biennially, rather than annually, to the legislature;
2. adds the Commerce and Higher Education committees as recipients of the report (under current law the commission reports to the Appropriations and Education committees);
3. eliminates a requirement that the report be shared with the State Board of Education (SBE) and Board of Regents for Higher Education;
4. eliminates a requirement for the report to recommend adjustments to the funding formula for SDE’s educational technology grant program; and
5. removes references to educational technology and replaces them with references to technology advancement.

DUTIES ELIMINATED

The bill eliminates the commission's duty to:

1. ensure, in cooperation with the SBE, computing competency for all sixth graders;
2. measure the public availability and use of Internet access sites and recommend strategies for reducing usage and accessibility disparities across the states;
3. coordinate the activities of state agencies, educational institutions, and other parties involved in creating and managing a network that allows video, voice, and data transmission and offers connectivity in every library, school, regional educational service center, and institution of higher education;
4. include in its long-range plan, a strategy that ensures teachers and faculty know how to use technology to improve education; and
5. establish policies to involve individuals with expertise in the commission's work.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 8 (04/01/2013)